Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, beginning at line 14 with the following paragraph, which amends lines 15, 16, and 19:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/658,835, filed September 8, 2000, and issued as U. S. Patent No. 6,943,279, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/352,159, filed July 12, 1999, and issued as U. S. Patent No. 6,211,434, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/135,391, filed May 21, 1999 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/092,936, filed July, 15 1998 all of which are hereby incorporated by reference. This application also claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 09/352,168, filed July 12, 1999, and issued as U. S. Patent No. 6,211,435, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph at page 79, beginning at line 5 with the following paragraph, which amends lines 7-8:

Preliminary sequence results were entered into GCG, and nucleotide and protein alignments were done in a pileup using a software program called Genedoc for shading and homology comparisons (Nicholas, *et al., EMBNEW.NEWS* 4:14 (1997; or on the World Wide Web at ~~the Internet site http://www.cris.com/~Ketchup/genedoc.shtml~~ cris.com/~Ketchup/genedoc.shtml). The first APAO (SEQ ID NO: 22) sequence was included for comparison. Comparing the reference sequence SEQ ID NO: 22 to the other homologs sequence identities range from 96 to 99% (identities are lower since APAO introns were not included). Homologies are slightly higher comparing *Exophiala* genes sequences. At the amino acid sequence level the comparison of the reference sequence (SEQ ID NO: 23) to the other homologs yielded sequence identities of approximately 97%.